

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090622

FOR POLADS

FOLLOWING REPEATS STATE 090622 ACTION ANKARA INFO ATHENS

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QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090622

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, TU

SUBJECT: SECRETARY-CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON EXCHANGE ON
US-TURKISH AGREEMENT

1. APRIL 14 CONGRESSMAN LEE HAMILTON RELEASED A RECENT
EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE SECRETARY
RELATING TO THE US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT
AND US POLICY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERANEAN. SEPTTEL DIS-
CUSSES HANDLING OF THIS EXCHANGE WITH THE GOT.

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2. BEGIN TEXT OF HAMILTON LETTER TO THE SECRETARY. APRIL 8.
DEAR MR. SECRETARY: WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET
FORMALLY TRANSMITTED TO CONGRESS THE US-TURKISH DEFENSE
COOPERATION AGREEMENT OF MARCH 26, 1976, I HAVE HAD AN

OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT ONE OF THE ADVANCE COPIES OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE INFORMALLY SENT TO THE HILL. LIKE MOST IN CONGRESS, I THINK IT IMPORTANT TO PROTECT THOSE BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS WHICH ARE CLEARLY IN THE US INTEREST. I HAVE LONG BELIEVED THAT CLOSE US-TURKISH TIES SUPPORT THAT INTEREST AND I ASSUME THAT THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED MARCH 26 WOULD REINFORCE THOSE TIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, I AM ALSO CONCERNED, AS SO ARE MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES IN CONGRESS, THAT WE DO NOTHING WHICH COULD LEAD TO INCREASED TENSIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND OUR OTHER COMMON AND VALUED NATO ALLY, GREECE, OR WHICH MIGHT RENDER MORE DIFFICULT EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO THE TROUBLED ISLAND OF CYPRUS.

3. I WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU THINK THE US-TURKISH AGREEMENT MEETS HHWHAT I THINK MUST BE THE TWIN AIMS OF US POLICY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND THE AEGEAN--THE PROTECTION OF US SECURITY INTERESTS AND THE AMELIORATION OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR FRIENDS IN THE REGION. SINCERELY, LEE H. HAMILTON. M.:.
END OT TEXT.

4. BEGIN TEXT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER TO HAMILTON, APRIL 13.
DEAR LEE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER COMMENTING ON THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND REQUESTING MY VIEWS ON HOW THE AGREEMENT RELATES TO UNITED STATES POLICY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE YOU MY THOUGHTS ON THESE MATTERS.

5. I SHOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY SEEKS TO PRESERVE THE RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL DEFENSE THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY DURING THE LAST THREE DECADES. THIS AGREEMENT IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST AND STRENGTHEN THE COMMON INTERESTS OF THE ALLIANCE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. AS ARTICLE II OF THE AGREEMENT MAKES CLEAR, THE DRFENSE COOPERATION CONFIDENTIAL

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ENVISAGED IN THE AGREEMENT SHALL BE LIMITED TO OBLIGATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY. THE AGREEMENT FURTHER PROVIDES THAT THE DEFENSE SUPPORT TO BE PROVIDED TO TURKEY SHALL BE EFFECTUATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND WITH GENERAL PRACTICES APPLICABLE TO ALL OTHER RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT THAT OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY IS PROVIDED ONLY FOR NATO PURPOSES AND THE COMMON DEFENSE. IT THEREFORE FOLLOWS THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD OPPOSE THE USE OF DEFENSE SUPPORT NOT CONSISTENT WITH THESE PURPOSES.

6. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE AGREEMENT RECENTLY SIGNED

WITH TURKEY, TOGETHER WITH THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT WE HOPE
SOON TO REACH WITH GREECE, WILL PLACE THE UNITED STATES IN
A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO HELP ITS TWO CLOSE ALLIES
RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. WE ACCORDINGLY ENVISAGE THE NEW
DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY AS AN IMPORTANT
STEP TOWARD TWO CRUCIAL AND INTERLOCKING GOALS: THE PRE-
SERVATION OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS
CHARACTERIZED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH GREECE AND TUEKEY
DURING THE LAST THREE DECADES AND RESUMED COOPERATION
WITHIN THE NATO ALLIANCE BETWEEN THESE TWO VALUED ALLIES
WARM REGARDS. HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT. KISSINGER UNQTE
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